



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

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BILL NELSON
FLORIDA

Douglas H. Shulman
Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 3000
Washington, DC 20224

Victor Song
Chief, Criminal Investigation Division
Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Ave NW, Room 2501
Washington, DC 20224

Dear Commissioner Schulman and Chief Song,

I am concerned by recent published reports of possible tax refund scams. According to a broadcast account by News Channel 8, which I am enclosing, residents in the Tampa Bay area are reporting they're receiving tax refunds without filing a return. The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office has received more than 25 such reports. Others in Pinellas have tried to file a return, only to be told that someone else using their name already filed for and claimed a refund.

I'm also enclosing a copy of a check sent to James King of Clearwater, Florida. Mr. King received the check for more than \$6,000 in the mail – from a bank, not the IRS. But Mr. King had not filed his return for 2010 yet. When he called the IRS, he was informed that the agency already had his return. Because the IRS is not authorized to release tax information about individuals, Mr. King reportedly has had a difficult time solving the problem.

Some Pinellas residents also say they're hearing from the IRS that it could take up to three years for their actual tax returns to be processed and the situation resolved. Meanwhile, a crook or crooks are out there – who knows how widespread the problem is - with enough personal information about people to fill out tax returns so believable the IRS accepts them.

I urge you to take appropriate and swift action to investigate and determine the scope of this problem while also identifying a remedy. Also, please provide added guidance on what innocent taxpayers should do if they find themselves victimized like this.

Thank you for your help on this issue.

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson